Similipal Tiger Reserve

*272. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many families are yet to be shifted out from inside the designated core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve and how many families have already been shifted out;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wild dogs, cuon alpinus, are slowly becoming extinct in the Similipal forests; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the State Government, out of 157 families from 4 villages within the Similipal Tiger Reserve, 72 families have been rehabilitated and 85 families are yet to be relocated.

(b) and (c) No scientific evidence has come to light indicating that the wild dogs in Similipal Tiger Reserve are threatened with extinction.

Pending rail projects in NER

*273. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new, ongoing projects including survey projects and pending rail projects in the North-East Region, project-wise;

(b) the time schedule for completion of these projects; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b)